

TITLE X—FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

STATE OPTION TO ISSUE FOOD STAMP BENEFITS TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS MADE INELIGIBLE BY WELFARE REFORM

SEC. 1001. Section 7 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2016) is amended by—

(1) inserting in subsection (a) after “necessary, and”, “except as provided in subsection (j)”, and

(2) inserting a new subsection (j) as follows:

“(j) (1) A State agency may, with the concurrence of the Secretary, issue coupons to individuals who are ineligible to participate in the food stamp program solely because of the provisions of section 6(o)(2) of this Act or sections 402 and 403 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996. A State agency that issues coupons under this subsection shall pay the Secretary the face value of the coupons issued under this subsection and the cost of printing, shipping, and redeeming the coupons, as well as any other Federal costs involved, as determined by the Secretary. A State agency shall pay the Secretary for coupons issued under this subsection and for the associated Federal costs issued under this subsection no later than the time the State agency issues such coupons to recipients. In making payments, the State agency shall comply with procedures developed by the Secretary. Notwithstanding section 3302(b) of title 31, United States Code, payments received by the Secretary for such coupons and for the associated Federal costs shall be credited to the food stamp program appropriation account or the account from which such associated costs were drawn, as appropriate, for the fiscal year in which the payment is received. The State agency shall comply with reporting requirements established by the Secretary.

“(2) A State agency that issues coupons under this subsection shall submit a plan, subject to the approval of the Secretary, describing the conditions under which coupons will be issued, including, but not limited to, eligibility standards, benefit levels, and the methodology the State will use to determine amounts owed the Secretary.

“(3) A State agency shall not issue benefits under this subsection—

“(A) to individuals who have been made ineligible under any provision of section 6 of this Act other than section 6(o)(2); or

“(B) in any area of the State where an electronic benefit transfer system has been implemented.

“(4) The value of coupons provided under this subsection shall not be considered income or resources for any purpose under any Federal laws, including, but not limited to, laws relating to taxation, welfare, and public assistance programs.

“(5) Any sanction, disqualification, fine or other penalty prescribed in Federal law, including, but not limited to, sections 12 and 15 of this Act, shall apply to violations in connection with any coupon or coupons issued pursuant to this subsection.

“(6) Administrative and other costs associated with the provision of coupons under this subsection shall not be eligible for reimbursement or any other form of Federal funding under section 16 or any other provision of this Act.

“(7) That portion of a household’s allotment issued pursuant to this subsection shall be excluded from any sample taken for purposes of making any determination under the system of enhanced payment accuracy established in section 16(c).”.

CONFORMING AMENDMENT

SEC. 1002. Section 17(b)(1)(B)(iv) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 is amended by—

(1) striking “or” in subclause (V);

(2) striking the period at the end of subclause (VI) and inserting “; or”; and

(3) inserting a new subclause (VII) as follows—

“(VII) waives a provision of section 7(j).”.

This Act may be cited as the “Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act of 1997”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendment, requests a conference with the House and the Chair is authorized to appoint conferees.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mr. MURRAY, Mr. DORGAN, and Mrs. BOXER conferees on the part of the Senate.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my legislative assistant, Annie Billings, be given privilege of the floor today, and during the pendency of the debate on the Family Friendly Workplace Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAMILY FRIENDLY WORKPLACE ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the American workplace has changed drastically since the enactment of the Fair Labor Standards Act—nearly 60 years ago. In those days, for example, a small percentage of working mothers toiled in the fields, factories, and general stores. Today, nearly 70 percent of mothers with children under the age of 6 are now working.

The constant refrain of both mothers and fathers in the nineties is: “There’s just not enough hours in the day.”

Well, the U.S. Senate can’t put more hours in a day, but we can give workers more choices on how to spend those hours each day.

The time has come to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. I am proud to be a cosponsor of S. 4, the Family Friendly Workplace Act.

Taking a look at this bill that Senator ASHCROFT has so skillfully put to-

gether and advocated. I think that the Family Friendly Workplace Act is one of the best opportunities we’ve had in a long time to make a substantial contribution to America’s working families. This bill is based on the comments and experiences of men and women who know the difficulty of balancing work and family.

Recently, a good friend of mine, Bill Stone, from Louisville, KY, my hometown, testified in support of S. 4 at a hearing before the Employment and Training Subcommittee of the Labor Committee upon which I serve. Bill runs the Louisville Plate Glass Co. Approximately three-fourths of this company’s Louisville work force is paid on an hourly basis and would be directly impacted by S. 4.

As Bill explained to our subcommittee, he said, “S. 4 will give a new and greatly needed measure of flexibility to our employees who are trying to meet the demands of raising children in single-parent or two-worker families. It will also,” Bill stated, “be a huge benefit to our employees who are pursuing training or educational activities.”

Now, let us take a look, Mr. President, at the compensatory time off provided for under the bill. If an employee at the Louisville Plate Glass Co. has to work overtime, then compensatory time off allows him to choose if he wants to be compensated with time-and-a-half pay or time-and-a-half time off.

A recent poll by Money magazine found that 66 percent of the American people would rather have their overtime in the form of time off than in hourly wages. And an astonishing 82 percent of people support legislation to allow workers to have this type of choice and flexibility.

The findings of this survey point to one conclusion, as explained by Ann Reilly Dowd of Money magazine. She put it this way. She said, “People are considering time much more precious than money right now.” And that is an enormous change in our society, Mr. President. Moreover, as Ms. Dowd concluded, “it seems that people are working so hard and being so torn between the mounting demands of their job and their family life that they really, really want more free time and they, particularly, want more flexible schedules.”

The Senate has a responsibility to respond to this overwhelming national need for choice and flexibility in the workplace.

Passing comptime legislation is just the first step in our response. Unfortunately, comptime alone is not enough. A bill that only includes comptime provisions will only include a small percentage of workers who actually work overtime.

S. 4 also includes two important provisions for workers who typically do not get the opportunity to work overtime. In most cases these workers are women.

For example, nearly three out of four workers reporting overtime pay are